

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

The claims of the present invention would appear to be part of an overlapping search area.¹

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse the outstanding Election requirement on the grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a *serious* burden on the Examiner.



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Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gregory J. Maier".

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¹To do justice to either identified group of claims, it is respectfully submitted that it would be necessary to search in both Classes and subclasses identified in paragraph 1 at page 2 of the outstanding Official Action.